GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:600
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN GUJARAT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cotton in Gujarat has come down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the farmers are not getting adequate support price of cotton; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The production of cotton in Gujarat has come down in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 as may be seen from the statement given below:

Year	Production (`000 bales of 170 kg. each)
1998-1999	3903.0
1999-2000	2085.6
2000-01	1161.4

(b): During monsoon seasons of 1999 and 2000, Gujarat received deficient rains which resulted in drought-like situation and adversely affected the production of cotton in the State.

(c): During the current season, the prices of certain variety of cotton in Gujarat has been ruling below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a central nodal agency, has been continuously purchasing cotton from 33 procurement centres opened in the State of Gujarat and has procured a total quantity of 199745 lint bales of Cotton of 170 kgs. each as on 26.2.2002. Further purchases are continuing.

(d): To protect the interest of cotton farmers, the Government have taken several steps which include the following:

(i). Hiking of import duty from 5% to 10% (effective from 9.1.2002) to restrict imports;

(ii). Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different varieties of cotton during each season;

(iii). Undertaking price support operation through CCI;

(iv). Launching of the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with four Mini-Missions having a total fund allocation of Rs.593 crores with the objectives of increasing cotton production and productivity, transfer of technology, supply of certified seeds, improvement of marketing infrastructures and modernization/ technological upgradation of existing ginning and pressing factories.